



ASSEMBLYMEMBER

NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District

***Parra Notes******January 26, 2007*****FREEZE UPDATE**

Yesterday I was in Dinuba to join **Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger** in briefing Central Valley residents and media on actions the State has taken to care for those affected by the recent freeze situation. Alongside the Governor and **Senator Abel Maldonado** (R – Santa Maria), I spoke out in support of the Administrations efforts, and committed to assuring SB 116, which provides crucial assistance to displaced workers, gets to the Governor's desk for signature as soon as possible.

To this point the State of California has proven itself through the assistance being provided, whether in the form of One-Step Assistance Centers, easing restrictions surrounding critical services, or simply being available to those with concerns.

One-Stop Centers in the 30th Assembly District:

| COUNTY | CENTER | ADDRESS | PHONE # |
|------------------|---|--|----------------|
| Fresno | Workforce Connection | 1680 East Manning Avenue, Reedley | (559) 490-7102 |
| Kern, Inyo, Mono | Career Services Center North – Delano | 1816 Cecil Avenue, Delano | (661) 336-6868 |
| | Career Services Center – Southeast Bakersfield | 1600 East Belle Terrace, Bakersfield | (661) 336-6868 |
| Kings | Kings County One-Stop Job Center | 124 North Irwin Street, Hanford | (559) 713-5136 |
| Madera | Madera County Workforce Assistance Center | 209 East 7 th Street, Madera | (559) 662-4586 |
| Merced | Worknet Employment Resource Center | 1200 W. 16 th St., Merced | (209) 576-6007 |
| Monterey | One-Stop Career Center of Monterey County | 730 La Guardia St., Salinas | (559) 905-3772 |
| San Luis Obispo | Creekside Career Center | 4111 Broad St., San Luis Obispo | (805) 788-2601 |
| Santa Barbara | Workforce Resource Center – Santa Maria | 1410 South Broadway, Suite A, Santa Maria | (805) 614-1543 |
| Tulare | Tulare County Employment Connection, Dinuba | 199 North L Street, Dinuba | (559) 662-4586 |
| | Tulare County Employment Connection, Porterville | 1063 West Henderson Avenue, Porterville | (559) 662-4586 |
| Ventura | West Oxnard Job and Career Center | 635 South Ventura Road, Oxnard | (805) 382-8600 |

Freeze-Related Unemployment Insurance Claims by County for the 30th Assembly District:

Fresno – 339 claims**Kings** – 13 claims**Kern** – 144 claims**Tulare** – 564 claims

These numbers show the 30th Assembly District as having over 50 percent of the State’s freeze-related unemployment claims. I am working with Senator Abel Maldonado to remedy this situation through the expedited passage of SB 116.

Total losses in the citrus industry alone total more than \$800,000,000. When factoring in all additional crops affected, and the sharp increase in unemployment insurance claims, it is evident the need for significant assistance will likely continue for weeks or even months. There are numerous efforts now in place, and legislation pending, and I will continue working to support the producers, workers, and families who have been heavily impacted by this catastrophe.

My office has also worked with the Administration, local government, and community service organizations to provide as much support as possible, and will continue to do so for as long as is necessary.

[Click here visit the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services Website](#)

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Committee Assignments Announced

This week at the Capitol, **Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez** announced the membership composition of Assembly policy committees for the coming legislative session. In addition to my capacity as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture, I will also be a member of the Assembly Committees on Banking and Finance, Insurance, and Water, Parks and Wildlife. Here is a look ahead at issues to be considered for these new committees:

- **Assembly Committee on Banking and Finance** – The economic stability and continued prosperity of our State depends on the integrity and quality of service within California’s Banking and Financial Services Industry. As I member on this committee, I will be engaged in discussions on ensuring lawful and equitable standards to protect consumers and professionals alike.
- **Assembly Committee on Insurance** – With the Governor having announced major changes to California’s insurance policies, specifically dealing with health care coverage for uninsured Californians, I will be at the table ensuring that any new resources or assistance are available for residents of the Central Valley.
- **Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife** – A dependable water supply is absolutely crucial to our part of the State. My seat on this committee for a second time will prove essential as we debate and plan for new surface storage facilities, conservation and environmental efforts, and water quality improvements. In addition, the recent passage of Prop. 84 present substantial opportunities for the entire State, and I will work to ensure the Valley gets its fair share.

Updates on committee issues of importance to the Valley, which are sure to arise in all of these committees, will be provided in the weeks and months to come through this newsletter.

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Assembly Committee on Agriculture Priorities

The priorities for the Assembly Committee on Agriculture in the current legislative session will focus on assisting freeze-relief efforts, food safety, and water.

The recent devastating freeze in California will have long lasting impacts to agriculture, farm laborers, and rural businesses. The negative impacts will likely last this entire legislative session, if not longer. I will work to ensure that state and federal agencies and departments are urged to act swiftly and in cooperation with local governments to address the economic and personal hardships of workers, farmers and businesses.

I recently traveled to Fresno, Castroville, Dinuba and Bakersfield accompanied by **Senator Abel Maldonado**, current Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Local officials were in attendance at these events as well, and briefings were issued on relief activities, resources available to those needing assistance, and an overview of the ongoing efforts both State and

Federal government have put in place to assist in the long-term recovery of California’s agriculture industry.

Food safety is another issue area where the committee will focus efforts during the year. The nation has had two serious food-borne illness outbreaks in the past twelve months, which have resulted in the loss of human lives. Both incidents have been linked to California produce. This is a serious issue to the food supply, consumers, as well as to the producers. I have toured the area implicated as the source of the contamination and met with growers, packers, shippers, and livestock producers. I have heard from the state agencies and university researchers, that no one single solution assures absolute prevention of a future incident.

I intend to hold hearings on the outbreaks in order to identify steps that can prevent future contamination, to learn of research needs and possible tracking methods that are being used successfully by other industries, and to develop legislative options to address the food safety issues presented by the outbreaks.

Water supply has been an ongoing area of concern for farmers in California. As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture, I feel it is my responsibility to support the development of new water resources. With this in mind, I have co-authored Senate Bill 59, from **Senator Dave Cogdill** (R – Modesto), which uses bond money to develop and construct surface storage projects, improvements to California’s Delta, and also includes money for environmental stewardship purposes.

Important Notes for the Valley

- The **Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyor of California**, represented by **Quad Knopf, Dewalt Corporation, Zumwalt-Hansen Inc., and Stantec** visited my Capitol office to discuss issues of importance to their organization, including the disbursement of infrastructure bond funds to the Valley, projects of significance in the region, and opinions and recommendations on how to improve the business climate for consulting engineers in California. **Please visit <http://www.celsoc.org> for more information.**
- The **California Youth Connection**, representing foster youth from across California, descended on the Capitol in force this week for the CYC’s Legislative Action Day. I was happy to meet the delegation from the 30th Assembly District to discuss issues of importance to the group. I gladly reaffirmed my commitment to working with the CYC to pass helpful and meaningful legislation in the coming year. **Please visit <http://www.calvouthconn.org/site/cyc/> for more information.**
- **Western Growers** visited Sacramento this week. Food safety, the freeze situation, and surface storage were the main topics of discussion in this meeting. As I have stated continuously, these are three of my top priorities, and I assured the delegation from Western Growers that I will continue to support family and corporate farmers through my work as Chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee. **Please visit <http://www.wga.com> for more information.**
- **The California Foundation on the Environment and Economy (CFEE)** hosted a conference regarding the implementation of **Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez’** landmark greenhouse gas legislation, AB 32. I was excited to meet with Public Utilities Commission President **Michael Peevey**, in addition to many others at the conference. The discussion on climate change was very eye-opening, and I look forward to addressing this issue in weeks and months to come. **Please visit <http://www.cfee.net> for more information.**

Female Leadership Academy:

On Saturday, I was asked to address the Female Leadership Academy in Visalia. The Academy which is sponsored by the CA Women's Foundation & Advocacy Coalition of Tulare County (ACT) is intended to engage women of all ages in leadership opportunities that will promote social and personal change.

The Academy targets 15-20 young women ages 15-21 years old of all backgrounds. The goal is for the young women participants to become leaders in their own communities with the aide of the interactive training sessions and networking they will participate in throughout the course of the eight month period. I was happy to serve on a panel of community leaders such as **Virginia Rondero Hernandez** (University Professor), **Teresa Ramos** (Kaweah Delta District Hospital Board), and **Connie Conway** (Tulare County Supervisor).

California Dairy Campaign & California Farmers Union Annual Dinner:

Ending my evening on Saturday, I attended the California Dairy Campaign (CDC) & California Farmers Union (CFU) Annual Dinner. The organizations came together to set legislative priorities, revise policy, and elect officers. CDC President **Andy Zylstra** and CFU President **Joaquin Contente** presided over event, in which I was also asked to provide my insights on the legislative activity at the State level. It was a great event in which I was able to see old friends like **Congressman Costa, Mary Cameron, and Don and Dino Giacomazzi.**

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As always, thank you to everyone who stops by my office. As a reminder, next time you find yourself in Sacramento stop by my new office and say hello. The office is now located on the 5th floor in room 5155. If I'm unavailable please leave your business card with my staff and I will do my best to get in contact with you.

On a side note, I was excited to meet with **Councilmember Sam Ramirez** and **Councilmember Carlton Jones** at the Capitol on Wednesday, and was quite interested in hearing from them on issues of importance to Tulare, in addition to a very lively debate on who was "the fastest councilmember west of the Mississippi!"

If you know anyone who would enjoy receiving Parra Notes please have them e mail [Brandon Sanders](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov) so they can be included in our distribution list.

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Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Anna Goddard** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov.

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Interns Wanted

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Anna Goddard** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov.

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